

REMARKS

Pending claim 1 now stands rejected in a final office action issued January 30, 2004. In the January 30, 2004, the Examiner rejected claim 1 as obvious over Lin (U.S. Patent No. 6,292,582) in view of Takagi (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,438) pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Applicants have amended claim 1 and submit that it is now ready for allowance. Claim 1 has been amended to recite "defect detection parameter selection means so as to select for all the defect parameters and defect detection parameter manual selection means so that values may be selected individually by the user on the basis of the defect detection parameter shown on the defective area display means." Applicants respectfully submit that neither Lin nor Takagi suggest or teach defect detection parameter selection means as recited in claim 1. In the January 30 Office Action, the Examiner asserted that Lin discloses "defect detection parameter manual selection means" citing to col. 7, lines 1-6; col. 30, lines 27-48; and col. 32 lines 26-31. The cited passages do not teach a defect detection parameter manual selection means" as recited in claim 1. Rather, the cited passages merely assert that "the contents of the knowledgebase 50 are monitored and maintained..." Col. 7, lines 1-6; or that the knowledgebase should be amended to consistently classify defects when a defect is correctly detected but the classification is wrong...Col. 30, lines 27-48; or that the graphical representation of descriptor values of a class of defect allow an operator to determine if the set of descriptor records of the defect images contain sufficient knowledge for the system to be able to produce correct classifications. Col. 32, lines 26-31.

Applicants submit that the present amendments now place Claim 1 in condition for allowance. No new matter is being added. The amendments are fully supported in the written description on at least page 16 and in Figures 3 and 4.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if a telephone conference would help in order to resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,



(Reg. No. 43,853)

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